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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/662,731	09/15/2003	Edward T. Tanner	21323.000331	1688

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EXAMINER

RODRIGUEZ, PAMELA

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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3683

DATE MAILED: 07/05/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

DETAILED ACTION

1. The Remarks filed May 2, 2006 have been received and considered.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

2. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

3. Claims 21-24, 29, 30, 34, and 35 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent no. 5,652,704 to Catanzarite in view of U.S. Patent no. 3,559,027 to Arsem.

Regarding Claims 21 and 29, Catanzarite discloses a shock and vibration isolation system for mounting equipment to a base wall (see Figure 1), the system comprising: a load plate 11 configured for attachment of the equipment thereto; a base plate 13 configured for attachment to the base wall; the base plate 13 being substantially parallel to the load plate 11 (see Figure 1), a spring arrangement 17 disposed intermediate the load plate and the base plate, the spring arrangement 17 engaging the load plate and the base plate to bias the load plate and the base plate in a separated relationship (see Figure 1); a magnetorheological/semi-active damper 22 disposed intermediate the load plate and the base plate, the semi-active damper 22 being adapted for providing a selectively variable reaction force to the load plate and the

base plate responsive to a relative displacement of the load plate with respect to the base plate; and a damper controller 42 operatively connected to the semi-active damper 22 for controlling the reaction force applied to the load plate and the base plate, the damper controller 42 including a rechargeable power supply 21.

However, Catanzarite does not disclose a recharging arrangement in electrical communication with the rechargeable power supply, the recharging arrangement comprising a piezoelectric generator and being mounted to one of the base plate and the load plate and being adapted for converting vibratory motion to electrical energy for storage in the rechargeable power supply.

Arsem is relied upon merely for his teachings of an isolation system having a damper controller and recharging arrangement 4 which can include a piezoelectric generator (see column 1 line 55 –column 2 line 1) in communication with a rechargeable power supply 3 and which is mounted to either a base plate or a load plate through the shock absorber itself.

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have constructed the recharging arrangement of Catanzarite to include a piezoelectric generator as taught by Arsem as an alternate equivalent means of recharging the power supply. As long as the recharging arrangement is capable of converting vibratory motion to electrical energy for storage in the rechargeable power supply, the means used to do so is arbitrary.

Regarding Claim 22, see step S1 discussed in the Catanzarite reference wherein the rate (i.e., velocity of the damping system) is used to calculate the force output. See

also steps S11 and S12 of Catanzarite where displacement is used to determine a force factor.

Regarding Claim 23, Catanzarite further discloses a current driver 35 operatively connected to the semi-active damper 22 and the power supply for selectively supplying current to energize the semi-active damper 22; a damper force control module in communication with the optimum force determination module and the current driver 35, the damper force control module being adapted for controlling the supply of current to the semi-active damper according to a predetermined control algorithm (see column 2 lines 53 et al and Figure 3 of the reference).

Regarding Claim 24, Catanzarite, as modified, does not disclose the specifics of the control algorithm claimed.

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have constructed the control algorithm of Catanzarite, as modified, to be selected from the group consisting of clipped optimal control, velocity feedback control and acceleration bang-bang control dependent upon the operating environment of the isolation system. As long as the damper force control module is adapted to control the supply of current to the semi-active damper, the algorithm used to perform this function is arbitrary.

Regarding Claim 30, see column 2 lines 36-40 of Catanzarite.

Regarding Claims 34 and 35, Catanzarite, as modified, discloses most all the features of the instant invention as applied above, including the rechargeable power supply including a battery 3 (see Arsem) which is connected to the recharging

arrangement through a rectifier bridge circuit 2 (see Figures 1 and 2 of Arsem). Arsem also goes on to disclose that the necessary resistance can be introduced into the circuit to vary the load applied to the shock absorber (see column 3 lines 3-5 of Arsem).

However, Catanzarite, as modified, does not disclose the specifics of a capacitor or a plurality of ultracapacitors connected to the recharging arrangement through the rectifier bridge circuit.

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have introduced a single capacitor or a plurality of ultracapacitors into the recharging arrangement of Catanzarite, as modified, in order to (as Arsem suggests in the column 3 passage cited above) vary the load applied to the shock absorber to provide the best overall damping to the system.

4. Claims 26-28 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent no. 5,652,704 to Catanzarite in view of U.S. Patent No. 3,559,027 to Arsem as applied to claims 21-24, 29, and 30 above, and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 4,080,636 to Ravizza.

Regarding Claim 26, Catanzarite, as modified, disclose most all the features of the instant invention as applied above, except for the specifics of the piezoelectric generator being formed as a laminate of crystals, having an upper and lower surface.

Ravizza is relied upon merely for his teachings of a piezoelectric generator 68 (see Figure 2a) formed as a laminate of crystals having an upper surface 72/50 and a lower surface 48 (see column 6 lines 21-34) used in a damping isolation system.

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have constructed the piezoelectric generator of Catanzarite, as modified, to be formed as a laminate of crystals having top and bottom surfaces as suggested by Ravizza in order to allow this type of recharging arrangement to be firmly and more securely attached to the equipment on which it is to be mounted. Again, as long as the piezoelectric generator is firmly secured to its respective equipment, the form of the generator is arbitrary.

Regarding Claims 27 and 28, Catanzarite, as modified, disclose most all the features of the instant invention as applied above, except for the specifics of the location of the piezoelectric generator with respect to the load plate, base wall, and base plate.

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have constructed the piezoelectric generator of Catanzarite, as modified, to be located with respect to the load plate, base wall, and base plate as claimed, as a matter of design preference, dependent upon the design constraints of the equipment utilizing the isolation system, the size and dimensions of the generator itself, etc. As long as the generator is mounted in such a way to provide its recharging function, its location can be anywhere throughout the system.

Allowable Subject Matter

5. Claim 25 is objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims (as consistent with the examiner of the parent

application's indication of such allowable subject matter in his office action issued November 5, 2003).

Response to Arguments

6. Applicant's arguments filed May 2, 2006 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

Firstly, applicant argues that neither the Catanzarite or the Arsem patent disclose any form of self-powered damping system. In particular, applicant contends that Catanzarite discloses a damping system that requires a power source but does not disclose the inclusion of any form of recharging arrangement.

In response to this argument, the examiner contends that the damper and controller 42 of Catanzarite both utilize a battery 21, which is certainly capable of being recharged, and thus this battery is readable as a "rechargeable power supply". Therefore, along these lines, at least the Catanzarite reference does disclose a form of self-powered damping system.

Applicant then goes on to argue that the Catanzarite reference does not disclose a recharging arrangement in communication with the rechargeable power supply. The examiner agrees. It is for this reason that the Arsem reference was utilized in the 103 rejection above to provide the teachings of such a recharging arrangement.

Applicant then argues that the Arsem patent discloses no more than the possibility that a piezoelectric generator could be attached to a shock absorber and thus

does not disclose a damper controller including a rechargeable power supply in communication with a recharging arrangement comprising a piezoelectric generator.

In response to this, the Arsem reference is not being relied upon to teach a damper controller including a rechargeable power supply, rather the Catanzarite reference, as rejected above, discloses such a controller 42 and a rechargeable power supply 21. Arsem is being relied upon to teach a shock absorber which can use a piezoelectric generator therein to recharge a rechargeable power supply (see column 1 lines 55 et al of Arsem, which alludes to this). Thus, since the two shock absorbers of the references are similar in structure, the examiner contends that adding a piezoelectric generator to the shock of Catanzarite to provide the claimed recharging arrangement would not be beyond the realm of one of ordinary skill in the art to employ. Thus, when these references are combined, Catanzarite and Arsem do arrive at applicant's invention.

And lastly applicant argues that no reasonable expectation of success is found in either reference and that any reasonable expectation that could be construed is based solely on applicant's disclosure. In response to this, the examiner recognizes that obviousness can only be established by combining or modifying the teachings of the prior art to produce the claimed invention where there is some teaching, suggestion, or motivation to do so found either in the references themselves or in the knowledge generally available to one of ordinary skill in the art. See *In re Fine*, 837 F.2d 1071, 5 USPQ2d 1596 (Fed. Cir. 1988) and *In re Jones*, 958 F.2d 347, 21 USPQ2d 1941 (Fed. Cir. 1992). In this case, the Arsem reference suggests that providing a damping system

with a rechargeable power supply is an effective means of converting vibratory motion to electrical energy for storage in a rechargeable power supply and provides an efficient means of powering a damping assembly. Thus, when the Arsem reference teachings are taken in conjunction with the Catanzarite reference, a rechargeable and more efficiently run damping assembly is realized.

It is for these reasons that the rejections have been maintained.

Conclusion

7. **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL.** Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

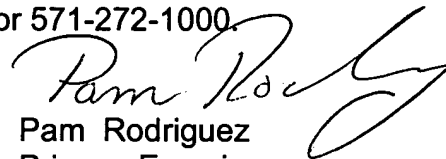
A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

8. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Pam Rodriguez whose telephone number is 571-272-7122. The examiner can normally be reached on Mondays 5:30 AM -4 PM and Tuesdays 5 AM -11 AM.

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If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Jim McClellan can be reached on 571-272-6786. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.



Pam Rodriguez
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 3683

6/26/06

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